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NORTHROP GRUMMAN RECEIVES AIR DISTRICT'S TOP HONOR

Lancaster – Northrop Grumman Corporation was recognized for its pollution prevention efforts today as the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) presented its 2001/2002 award for Achievement in Reducing Emissions (AIRE) to the local defense contractor. Northrop Grumman is the prime contractor for the B-2 stealth bomber and assembled the aircraft at its Palmdale facility in the 1980's and '90s. The award was presented during the local regulatory air agency's September Governing Board meeting, which was held at their Lancaster headquarters.

Northrop Grumman was awarded the AVAQMD's highest honor for voluntarily developing an Electric and Radiation Effect (ERE) coating system which eliminates or significantly reduces specific toxic and smog-forming emissions from ongoing B-2 maintenance and restoration operations at the Palmdale facility.

ERE coatings are applied to the B-2 to help make it "stealthy," or virtually undetectable, while in flight. As part of their ongoing efforts to enhance the B-2, Northrop Grumman and the

U.S. Air Force initiated a program to improve the ERE coating system used in the B-2 Program. In addition to improving the quality and serviceability of the specialized coatings, the new system has also resulted in completely eliminating hexavalent chromium from one ERE coating used in the B-2 Program, and reducing the volatile organic compound content of three ERE coatings by up to 303 grams per liter. Northrop Grumman's AIRE award was accepted by Ken Gallagher, director, Depot and Modification Center, at Palmdale.

The AIRE Awards recognize Antelope Valley entities that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary activities, or projects that reduce or prevent air pollution within the AVAQMD's jurisdiction. According to the District's

Air Pollution Control Officer Chuck Fryxell, "By recognizing individuals and organizations - such as Northrop Grumman - who go the extra mile to reduce air pollution, the AVAQMD hopes to inspire others to follow their lead in implementing innovative and effective ways of protecting air quality." The AIRE Awards are presented annually by the AVAQMD in conjunction with National Pollution Prevention Week, September 16-22.